

As Vs Like

"She sings like her mother" - correct

"She sings as her mother does" - correct

Susan, like her mother, is a good singer. - correct

"She sings like her mother does" - wrong

Joe, like Mary, has a cat. - correct

Joe has a cat, as does Mary. - correct

There are fundamentally 4 differences between "as" and "like".

1. As introduces clauses (which have verbs) and like introduces phrases (which don't have verbs).

2. As clause construction is used to introduce comparisons that are real. Like phrase constructions are preferred when making comparisons that are not real but imaginary.

3. "As" is also used as a substitute for "in the capacity of". Eg. As the president of USA, George Bush.....

4. Idiomatic differences: Used as (Correct) Used Like (Incorrect) / Regarded as (Correct), Regarded Like (Incorrect). There is just one exception (that I have come across) to the idiomatic constructions using the verb "act", where one has to infer the meaning before using "as/like". "Act as" is used when a function of an inanimate object is described. Eg. In the flood, the wall acted as a dam. However, "act" is followed by like to mean to behave or comport oneself and describes the action of a person. Eg. He acted like a fool.

Practice Questions

1. More than thirty years ago Dr. Barbara Mc-Clintock, the Nobel Prize winner, reported that genes can “jump,” as pearls moving mysteriously from one necklace to another.

- (A) as pearls moving mysteriously from one necklace to another
- (B) like pearls moving mysteriously from one necklace to another
- (C) as pearls do that move mysteriously from one necklace to others
- (D) like pearls do that move mysteriously from one necklace to others
- (E) as do pearls that move mysteriously from one necklace to some other one

Explanation: In A, as is used unidiomatically; in j comparison, as is properly employed as a conjunction introducing a subordinate clause.

Choices C, D, and E are all faulty because the verb do suggests that the migrating pearls are presented as a real phenomenon, not as a figurative illustration. Also, in D, like is used ungrammatically to introduce a subordinate clause (pearls do ...); and in E, the phrase some other one, substituted for another, is awkward and wordy.

Choice B, the best answer, correctly and idiomatically uses the preposition like to introduce a comparison that is expressed, in a prepositional phrase.

2. Before its independence in 1947, Britain ruled India as a colony and they would relinquish power only after a long struggle by the native people.

- (A) Before its independence in 1947, Britain ruled India as a colony and they would relinquish power
- (B) Before independence in 1947, Britain had ruled India as a colony and relinquished power
- (C) Before its independence in 1947, India was ruled by Britain as a colony and they relinquished power
- (D) Before independence in 1947, India had been ruled as a colony by Britain, which relinquished power
- (E) Before independence in 1947, India had been a colony of the British, who relinquished power

Explanation:

D is wrong because:

"ruled as a colony" is unclear.

GMAT doesn't tolerate this sort of circumlocution. **you have to say things directly.**

i.e., if india WAS a colony, then you have to say that it WAS a colony.

"ruled as a colony" doesn't necessarily mean that; it could just signify that india was *ruled as though it were* a colony, even though it wasn't one.

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analogy:

joe was a slave --> he was actually a slave.

joe was treated as a slave --> he probably wasn't a slave.

E is correct.

3. As rare as something becomes, be it a baseball card or a musical recording or a postage stamp, the more avidly it is sought by collectors.

- (A) As rare as something becomes, be it
- (B) As rare as something becomes, whether it is
- (C) As something becomes rarer and rarer, like
- (D) The rarer something becomes, like
- (E) The rarer something becomes, whether it is

Explanation: D is making a comparison - "like". Also if you look at the grammar structure "The rarer something becomes" - you cannot compare clause with a noun (ball, stamp etc) for parallelism reasons.

"The rarer something" is parallel with "The more avidly". E is correct.

4. In the 1980's the rate of increase of the minority population of the united states was nearly twice as fast as the 1970's.

- A. twice as fast as
- B. twice as fast as it was in
- C. twice what it was in
- D. two times faster than that of
- E. two times greater than

Explanation: As 'increase' is redundant with 'as fast as'. That leaves C and E. We need "in the 1970's" to be parallel with "in the 1980's". Hence C.

5. In its most recent approach, the comet Crommelin passed the Earth at about the same distance and in about the same position, some 25 degrees above the horizon, that Halley's comet will pass the next time it appears.

- (A) that Halley's comet will pass
- (B) that Halley's comet is to be passing
- (C) as Halley's comet
- (D) as will Halley's comet
- (E) as Halley's comet will do

Explanation: We need 'as' for comparing clauses. We also need 'will' to indicate future tense. That leaves D and E. In option E, 'do' (present tense verb) is an ellipsis, which means the same verb tense should be already present in the sentence. So E is incorrect.

D it is.

6. Based on recent box office receipts, the public's appetite for documentary films, like nonfiction books, seems to be on the rise.

- (A) like nonfiction books
- (B) as nonfiction books
- (C) as its interest in nonfiction books
- (D) like their interest in nonfiction books
- (E) like its interest in nonfiction books

Explanation: We need 'like' because public's appetite is compared with public's interest. 'public' is singular. Hence E.

7. Proponents of artificial intelligence say they will be able to make computers that can understand English and other human languages, recognize objects, and reason as an expert does—computers that will be used to diagnose equipment breakdowns, deciding whether to authorize a loan, or other purposes such as these.

- (A) as an expert does—computers that will be used to diagnose equipment breakdowns, deciding whether to authorize a loan, or other purposes such as these
- (B) as an expert does, which may be used for purposes such as diagnosing equipment breakdowns or deciding whether to authorize a loan
- (C) like an expert—computers that will be used for such purposes as diagnosing equipment breakdowns or deciding whether to authorize a loan
- (D) like an expert, the use of which would be for purposes like the diagnosis of equipment breakdowns or the decision whether or not a loan should be authorized
- (E) like an expert, to be used to diagnose equipment breakdowns, deciding whether to authorize a loan or not, or the like

Explanation:

- (A) **such as these - What does these refers to?**
 - (B) **Incorrect - position of which is not correct**
 - (C) **Correct**
 - (D) **Incorrect - whether or not is not the correct usage**
 - (E) **Incorrect - same as D**
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8. The use of gravity waves, which do not interact with matter in the way electromagnetic waves do, hopefully will enable astronomers to study the actual formation of black holes and neutron stars.

- A) in the way electromagnetic waves do, hopefully will enable
- B) in the way electromagnetic waves do, will, it is hoped, enable
- C) like electromagnetic waves, hopefully will enable
- D) like electromagnetic waves, would enable, hopefully
- E) such as electromagnetic waves do, will, it is hoped, enable

Explanation: There is a 3/2 split between hopefully and hoped. In C and D the verb is missing so they are out, that leaves A, B and E

What does the sentence say ?

The use of gravity waves will enable astronomers to study the actual formation of black holes and neutron stars.

Other parts are modifiers so we can write

The use of gravity waves, which (gravity waves) do not interact with matter in the same way electromagnetic waves do (interact), will, it is hoped, enabled...

So A is out for using the awkward construction hopefully

E is out because we don't want to give an example, what we want to say is " in the same way "

This leaves B

Hopefully is not wrong, but the problem lies in how it's used in the sentence (a sentence adverb). It refers back to the whole sentence so its imprecise to use hopefully, better to use it is hoped (that the gravity waves)

9. Salt deposits and moisture threaten to destroy the Mohenjo-Daro excavation in Pakistan, the site of an ancient civilization that flourished at the same time as the civilizations in the Nile Delta and the river valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates.

- (A) that flourished at the same time as the civilizations
- (B) that had flourished at the same time as had the civilizations
- (C) that flourished at the same time those had
- (D) flourishing at the same time as those did
- (E) flourishing at the same time as those were

Explanation: Since both the civilizations existed at the same time there is no need of using past perfect tense here. GMAT prefers to use simple tenses wherever possible.

A is correct.

10. According to a recent poll, owning and living in a freestanding house on its own land is still a goal of a majority of young adults, like that of earlier generations.

- a) like that of earlier generations
- b) as that for earlier generations
- c) just as earlier generations did
- d) as have earlier generations
- e) as it was of earlier generations

Explanation: In A and B, *like that* and *as that* imply two separate goals, one similar to the other. But in the SC above there is only one goal: *owning and living in a freestanding house*. The intended meaning of the sentence is that this one goal is common to all the generations. Eliminate A and B. In C, it is unclear what verb is being replaced by *did*. Eliminate C. In D, it is unclear what earlier generations *have* done. Eliminate D. The correct answer is E.

E uses **ellipsis**, the omission of words in a comparison:

...owning and living in a freestanding house...is still a goal of a majority of young adults, as it [owning and living in a freestanding house] was [a goal] of earlier generations.

In E, *it* refers to *owning and living in a freestanding house*. The phrase *a goal* has been omitted, but its presence is understood.

11. In Hungary, as in much of Eastern Europe, an overwhelming proportion of women work, many of which are in middle management and light industry.

- A. as in much of Eastern Europe, an overwhelming proportion of women work, many of which are in
- B. as with much of Eastern Europe, an overwhelming proportion of women works, many in
- C. as in much of Eastern Europe, an overwhelming proportion of women work, many of them in.
- D. like much of Eastern Europe, an overwhelming proportion of women works, and many are.
- E. like much of Eastern Europe, an overwhelming proportion of women work, many are in.

Explanation:

- A. as in much of Eastern Europe, an overwhelming proportion of women work, **many of which are** in
- B. as with much of Eastern Europe, an overwhelming proportion of **women works**, many in
- C. as in much of Eastern Europe, an overwhelming proportion of women work, many of them in
- D. **like much of Eastern Europe**, an overwhelming proportion of **women works**, and many are
- E. **like much of Eastern Europe**, an overwhelming proportion of women work, many are in

12. There are hopeful signs that we are shifting away from our heavy reliance on fossil fuels; more than ten times as much energy is generated through wind power now than it was in 1990.

- A. generated through wind power now than it was
- B. generated through wind power now as it was
- C. generated through wind power now as was the case
- D. now generated through wind power as it was
- E. now generated through wind power than was the case

Explanation: In A and E, *ten times as much energy...than* is not idiomatic. The correct idiom is *ten times as much X as Y*. Eliminate A and E.

In B and D, the use of *it* is incorrect. We can't say *ten times as much energy is generated now as IT was in 1990* because we're talking about TWO DIFFERENT AMOUNTS: the amount generated now (*ten times as much*) and the amount generated in 1990. Eliminate B and D.

The correct answer is C.

13. Officials at the United States Mint believe that the Sacagawea dollar coin will be used more as a substitute for four quarters rather than for the dollar bill because its weight, only 8.1 grams, is far less than four quarters, which weigh 5.67 grams each.

A) more as a substitute for four quarters rather than for the dollar bill because its weight, only 8.1 grams, is far less than

B) more as a substitute for four quarters than the dollar bill because it weighs only 8.1 grams, far lighter than

C) as a substitute for four quarters more than for the dollar bill because it weighs only 8.1 grams, far less than

D) as a substitute for four quarters more than the dollar bill because its weight of only 8.1 grams is far lighter than it is for

E) as a substitute more for four quarters rather than for the dollar bill because its weight, only 8.1 grams, is far less than it is for

Explanation:

The main point to consider here is what is being substituted.

The meaning of the passage is "The Sacagawea dollar will be used as a substitute for four quarters more than the Sacagawea dollar will be used as a substitute for the dollar bill".

A and B fall because of wrong comparison "more as a substitute"

D is gone, since there is no "for" before the dollar bill

E is too wordy, and hence follows D

Only C makes the correct comparison and maintains grammar.

14. Like any star of similar mass would do, once the Sun has exhausted the hydrogen in its core, it expands into a red giant, eventually ejecting its outer envelope of gases to become a white dwarf.

(A) Like any star of similar mass would do, once the Sun has exhausted the hydrogen in its core, it expands into a red giant, eventually ejecting

(B) Like any star of similar mass, once the hydrogen in the Sun's core is exhausted, then it expands into a red giant and eventually ejects

(C) As in the case of any star of similar mass, once the hydrogen in the Sun's core is exhausted, it will expand into a red giant, and eventually ejecting

(D) As any star of similar mass would, once the hydrogen in the Sun's core is exhausted it will expand into a red giant and will eventually eject

(E) As would be the case with any star of similar mass, once the Sun exhausts the hydrogen in its core, it will expand into a red giant and eventually eject

Explanation:

AB: Wrong; Wrong use of "like"; element after comma should be a noun

D: Wrong; incomplete clause after "as" since "would" should have a verb after it

C: Wrong; "it" should refer to "Sun" not to "hydrogen", but it can't, because "Sun" is in a possessive form.

E is correct.

15. As it is with traditional pharmacies, on-line drugstores rely on prescriptions to be successful, since it is primarily prescriptions that attract the customers, who then also buy other health-related items.

- A. As it is with traditional pharmacies, on-line drugstores rely on prescriptions to be successful
- B. As with the case of traditional pharmacies, on-line drugstores rely on prescriptions to have success
- C. As is the case with traditional pharmacies, prescriptions are the cornerstone of a successful on-line drugstore
- D. As traditional pharmacies, so on-line drugstores rely on prescriptions to be successful
- E. Like traditional pharmacies, the cornerstone of a successful on-line drugstore is prescriptions

Explanation:

- (A) **Incorrect comparison.** noun phrase [on-line drugstores] is compared to a clause (it is with traditional pharmacies)!
 - (B) **Incorrect comparison.** noun phrase [on-line drugstores] is compared to a clause (it is with traditional pharmacies)!
 - (C) Correct
 - (D) **Incorrect comparison.**
 - (E) **Incorrect comparison.**
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16. Like many others of his generation of Native American leaders, Joseph Brant lived in two worlds; born into an Iroquois community and instructed in traditional Iroquois ways, he also received an education from English-speaking teachers.

- (A) Like many others of his generation of Native American leaders, Joseph Brant lived in two worlds;
- (B) Like many others of his generation of Native American leaders, living in two worlds, Joseph Brant was
- (C) Like many another of his generation of Native American leaders, Joseph Brant, living in two worlds, was
- (D) As with many others of his generation of Native American leaders, living in two worlds, Joseph Brant was
- (E) As with many another of his generation of Native American leaders, Joseph Brant lived in two worlds;

Explanation:

In Op A. Like many others of his generation of Native American leaders, **Joseph Brant lived in two worlds;** born into an Iroquois community and instructed in traditional Iroquois ways, **he also received an education from English-speaking teachers.**

A semicolon should be used to connect two complete sentences means on the both sides of a semicolon two Independent clauses has to be there...in above Op A, the green colored parts are IC's and both sides of the semicolon are complete sentences.

Also, in a complete sentence, it doesn't matter, where the modifier comes in, i mean in the start or in the middle or at the end it doesn't matter...the only thing that does matter is it must contain an IC. Op B and Op C has a run-on sentence error or comma splice error as two IC's are connected improperly by a comma.

17. In one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War, fought at Sharpsburg, Maryland, on September 17, 1862, four times as many Americans were killed as would later be killed on the beaches of Normandy during D-Day.

- (A) Americans were killed as
- (B) Americans were killed than
- (C) Americans were killed than those who
- (D) more Americans were killed as there
- (E) more Americans were killed as those who

Explanation:

Try substituting simpler words when in doubt

(A) Americans were killed as

>> I read as many books as you do.

(B) Americans were killed than

>> I read as many books than you do.

(C) Americans were killed than those who

>> I read as many books than the one which you do.

(D) more Americans were killed as there

>> I read as many more books as there you do.

(E) more Americans were killed as those who

>> I read as many more books as ones which you do.

It's a clear A.

18. The value of the dollar in international markets will continue to increase, as it has been since interest rates began to rise.

- (A) as it has been
- (B) as it has done
- (C) which it has
- (D) which it has been
- (E) which it had been

Explanation:

Which is wrong.. Eliminate C, D, E

it has done looks incorrect as the value of dollar doesn't increase or decrease by itself...

A Correct.

19. In the early twentieth century, an extraordinary painter could influence nearly all advanced artists, but today, for any one artist to influence practitioners of genres as varied as painting, video, and photography is nearly impossible.

- (A) as varied as
- (B) as varied as are
- (C) as varied as those of
- (D) that are as varied as your answer
- (E) that are as varied as are

Explanation:

One artist is singular and those is trying to make a plural copy; such construction is not allowed. It is recommended to repeat entire plural noun in such case.

Further in original sentence A) as varied as is describing genres and listing them further and such construction is fine.

20. Uninformed about students' experience in urban classrooms, critics often condemn schools' performance gauged by an index, such as standardized test scores, that are called objective and can be quantified and overlook less measurable progress, such as that in higher-level reasoning.

- A. an index, such as standardized test scores, that are called objective and can be quantified and overlook less measurable progress, such as that
- B. an index, such as standardized test scores, that are called objective and can be quantified and overlook less measurable progress, such as what is made
- C. an index, such as standardized test scores, that is called objective and can be quantified and overlook less measurable progress, such as what is made
- D. a so-called objective index, such as standardized test scores, that can be quantified and overlook less measurable progress, such as what is made
- E. a so-called objective index, such as standardized test scores, that can be quantified and overlook less measurable progress, such as that

Explanation:

A & B can be eliminated for because of "that are", we need that is"

D & C - can be quantified - is incorrect - shows uncertainty

E is not the best either, but best among worst.

Therefore E.

21. Like Haydn, Schubert wrote a great deal for the stage, but he is remembered principally for his chamber and concert-hall music.

- (A) Like Haydn, Schubert
- (B) Like Haydn, Schubert also
- (C) As has Haydn, Schubert
- (D) As did Haydn, Schubert also
- (E) As Haydn did, Schubert also

Explanation:

No error in A. If there's no error in the original sentence, and no other answer choice improves upon A, stick with the original sentence and choose A.

The correct answer is A.

In C, it is unclear what Haydn *has* done. The implication is that Haydn has *written*, but *written* does not appear elsewhere in the sentence; ellipsis should be used only to omit a word whose presence is understood because the omitted word appears elsewhere (ideally previously) in the sentence:

Just as Schubert has written for the stage, so too has Haydn.

Eliminate C.

Avoid *also* when making a comparison:

Like John, Mary also swims fast.

Also confuses the meaning. Mary also swims fast; John also swims fast. Is there another person -- besides Mary and John -- who swims fast?

In D and E, it is awkward for *did* to appear before the verb that it is replacing (*wrote*). Generally the verb being replaced should appear first:

Just as Haydn wrote for the stage, so too did Haydn.

Eliminate B, D and E.

OAs

OA :

1. B
2. E
3. E
4. C
5. D
6. E
7. C
8. B
9. A
10. E
11. C
12. C
13. C
14. E
15. C
16. A
17. A
18. A
19. A
20. E
21. A

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